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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 583

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. L.C. Waddle, former Dean of Students, Campus Minister, and retired Professor of Religion at Bethel College.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the accomplishments of those Tennesseans who served their fellow citizens with the utmost integrity, dedication, and ability; and

WHEREAS, Dr. L.C. Waddle was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, June 10, 1999 was truly a sad day for all people who had the distinct privilege of knowing Dr. Waddle, as well as for the entire state of Tennessee, as this remarkable man passed from this life to a far better existence; and

WHEREAS, a native of Texas, Dr. Waddle began his undergraduate studies at Bethel College in 1938, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree; he then received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, L.C. Waddle further pursued his educational goals in the Graduate School of Theology at Oberlin College, where he did graduate work; he next earned a Master of Theology from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and, in 1957, Bethel College awarded him the

Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of education and to the church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Waddle was a dedicated servant of The Cumberland Presbyterian (C.P.) Church; this highly respected and admired man devoted his life, through a variety of leadership positions, to a career that spanned the ministry of the church; and

WHEREAS, after being called to the ministry, he served as the pastor at the Tyler Texas C.P. Church, the Olney Texas C.P. Church, and was the campus minister at Bethel College; and

WHEREAS, he served with great probity as a teacher, and he shared his wealth of knowledge by teaching various classes at Bethel, including Bible and Religion; and

WHEREAS, he continuously sought to improve the church's educational system; he served as General Secretary of Christian Education for the Board of Publication and Christian Education of the C.P. Church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Waddle served with acumen and alacrity as the Dean of Students at Bethel College, in which position he earned the respect of colleagues, staff, and students alike for the superior quality of his work and his dedication; and

WHEREAS, many people were touched by this remarkable man; Reverend Anne Hames, the Chaplain at Bethel College, stated: "He proved to be one of my strongest supporters and mentors...he made me stronger and for that I will always love him"; and

WHEREAS, Bob Prosser, the President of Bethel College, describes Dr. Waddle as a friend to all, stating: "...being continually molded by Christ's spirit, L.C. was gifted to show grace to all. No one was too powerful to escape that grace. No one was too humble to escape its touch"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Waddle was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife Mary Elizabeth Dotherow whom he met at Bethel College, and was the proud parent of Mary Margaret, John David, and Walter Leslie, and the devoted grandparent of six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. L.C. Waddle leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional minister, educator and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Dr. L.C. Waddle, a friend, scholar, and man of God, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Waddle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.